June 24, 2003

As a long time radio enthusiast and shortwave listener I am writing in regards to the latest concern of BPL for future internet connections. While the idea of receiving and transmitting data via RF field over power lines sounds interesting and convenient I urge the FCC to re-examine the great potential and concern of major RF interference to a wide portion of the HF spectrum.

As the commission is well aware this radio spectrum is used by a number of services including military, amateur, astronomy facilities worldwide. It also is a basis for many scientific research.

The amount of interference levied on this frequencies would be overwhelming, to say the least.

Not only would receivers in this spectrum be overwhelmed with interference but potentially a vast number of consumer electronics could be affected including basic AMFM receivers, televisions, baby monitors, surveillance equipment and cameras, garage door units and more.

In particular, for my hobby interest, ham radio communication would be greatly curtailed. Recent findings and speculations suggest interference peaking at S9 +30 db on the frequencies that radio amateurs use. This would all but eliminate any reasonable communication capabilities locally and worldwide.

As you are aware the amateur radio community exists still today as an important outlet to communication when all other forms of communication (cellular and landline telephone, facsimile, internet, etc.) is interrupted or "down."

In particular its use during the hurricane season is monumental and crucial. Communities devastated by the ravages of a hurricane have no other way of contacting family members and proper authorities without ham radio.

As well many religious organizations, charity outfits and worldwide benevolence programs use and rely strictly on ham radio and ham radio phone patch communications for worldwide transmissions.

The military amateur radio service also serves an important role in today's world and, with the advent of homeland security measures, may serve a greater role in the future.

For many "hams," though, the true joy and thrill of communications on the HF or high frequency bands means a great deal. Many friends have been made worldwide through ham radio and it still serves as a way of bridging the gap between cultures—something that perhaps may help one another understand each other a little better.

By exposure of our bands to high power, high energy BPL transmissions for convenient computer usage many services, amateur, government, non-profit and more will be completely "wiped out."

I also wonder about the risk of harmonics created by this service and the potential for BPL transmissions to run rampant on much higher frequencies, too—a threat that could really encroach on hospital paging systems, medical transport units and more.

Reports from other countries using BPL widely have shown major interference concerns to the ham radio community and others.

Environmentally, too, I wonder what the effects of long term, continuous BPL RF energy. What are the effects of exposing individuals? What happens if this system does interfere with devices and a number of frequencies not only in the HF spectrum but

elsewhere? Also, what about the concerns to the AM broadcast band? What about US BPL interference to other countries? As for the AM band, surely, interference could occur here, too since it is right below the 160 meter band. The AM band is an important band for news and entertainment for millions.

I please ask the commission to reconsider the BPL issue and look for alternatives to safe internet communications. As a radio ham, I implore you to investigate further. Ham radio is a very important part of my life. Over a million in the United States couldn't agree more—not to mention the millions and millions of worldwide hams.

Many of us have also invested a lot of our time, education and money into ham radio. It would be a shame to see such a wonderful hobby dissipate from this new technology.

Thank you for your time and consideration.